

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AT RISK YOUTH PROGRAM STARTED AT PIO PICO STATE HISTORIC PARK

WHITTIER - Six young men and woman were hired in July as part of the At Risk Youth program at Pio Pico State Historic Park, 6003 Pioneer Boulevard in Whittier. The park is the home of the last governor of Mexican California.

The At Risk Youth program is financed through Proposition A, a 1996 Los Angeles County Bond Act that earmarked funds for parks. The \$58,000 grant was attached to funding extended from the 2000-2003 major renovation projects at Pio Pico State Historic Park. The program is scheduled to last six months, with the possibility of extending it beyond the six month time frame.

The At Risk Youth program is a cooperative venture between California State Parks and Recreation, the City of Whittier, the County of Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles Conservation Corps. This program hires young people between the ages of 18 and 24 years old living in Los Angeles County. They are from areas defined with family incomes lower than the median income for Los Angeles County. They could also be from areas identified as having unemployment at least 20% higher than the County of Los Angeles as a whole.

Staff at Pio Pico State Historic Park developed a training, education and work program for the six new employees. The young men and women are being trained in aspects of park maintenance, park interpretation and public safety. These youth will learn lifelong job skills and will spark an interest leading to future careers with State Parks in the Los Angeles area and beyond.

For more information, contact Fred Andrews, Interpreter I, Pio Pico State Historic Park, at (562) 695-1217, extension 102.

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